1   What is claimed is:

1   1.   In an external disk drive system comprising a disk drive, a bridge controller

2   comprising a plurality of Bridge Controller Host (BCH) interfaces adapted to establish

3   communication between the external disk drive system and an external device via a

4   plurality of different communication mediums, a method for switching from a first BCH

5   interface communicating with the external device via a first communication medium to a

6   second BCH interface during the operation of the external disk drive system, the method

7   comprising:

8   sensing a connecting of a second communication medium to the external

9   disk drive system via the second bch interface;

10   determining an interface priority of the second communication medium

11   over an interface priority of the first communication medium;

12   dismounting the disk drive from the first communication medium based on

13   the determining; and

14   mounting the disk drive to the second communication medium wherein the

15   external disk drive system remains operational during the dismounting and mounting.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, the dismounting further comprising:

2   communicating a request for dismounting the first communication medium

3   to the external device via the bridge controller host interface; and

4   dismounting the disk drive from the first communication medium if the

5   valid response is received from the external device.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the external device is a host computer.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the external disk drive system is adapted to

2   communicate with a plurality of external devices via the plurality of BCH interfaces and

3   the plurality of different communication mediums.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the determining, the dismounting and the

2   mounting are performed by firmware executed in the bridge controller.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the interface priority of the first

2   communication medium is pre-assigned.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the interface priority of the second

2   communication medium is pre-assigned.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the external disk drive system further

2   comprises a storage device in communication with the external device via the first

3   communication medium, and wherein the storage device remains in communication with

4   the external device.

1   9.   The method of claim 1, wherein the first communication medium

2   comprises a universal serial bus (USB) cable.

1   10.   The method of claim 1, wherein the second communication medium

2   comprises a Firewire™ cable.